

C.I.A. TOLD TO CURB ACTIVITIES ABROAD

Sparkman Cites a New Law Restricting Operations Solely to Intelligence

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WASHINGTON, Jan. 6—The Central Intelligence Agency was told by a Senate committee today that it must heed new legislation calling for an immediate stop to most foreign C.I.A. operations not solely aimed at the gathering of intelligence.

The new restrictions were cited in a letter released by Senator John J. Sparkman, Democrat of Alabama, acting chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, as controversy grew over the make-up of a Presidential panel named yesterday to investigate charges of domestic C.I.A. spying.

Some liberal members of Congress, joined by such groups as the American Civil Liberties Union, expressed doubt over the objectivity and independence of the eight-member commission and challenged President Ford's naming of Vice President Rockefeller as its chairman.

Among those questioning the make-up of the panel were Senators William Proxmire, Democrat of Wisconsin, and Richard S. Schweiker, Republican of Pennsylvania, and Representative Bella S. Abzug, Democrat of Manhattan.

Ron Nessen, White House

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press secretary, defended the choice of Mr. Rockefeller at today's news briefing and said it "clearly indicates interest" by President Ford in the operation and function of the commission. He added that he knew of no reason who the commission would interfere with any pending Congressional inquiries into the C.I.A.

The Foreign Relations Committee's apparent determination to take an active role in monitoring covert C.I.A. operations indicates that Congress will be heavily involved this year in investigating both the foreign and domestic activities of the agency. Three other committees have already announced plans to investigate the alleged domestic spying.

Meantime, high officials of the Justice Department met late today to plan their investigation into possible illegalities from the C.I.A.'s alleged domestic activities.

Justice officials said that the investigation would be conducted jointly by lawyers in the Criminal and Civil Rights Divisions, under the direction of Laurence H. Silberman, Deputy Attorney General.

One official source said that the department's investigation would be governed by Federal statutes prohibiting those acting under the color of law, which includes agents of the C.I.A., from conspiring to deprive citizens of their civil rights.

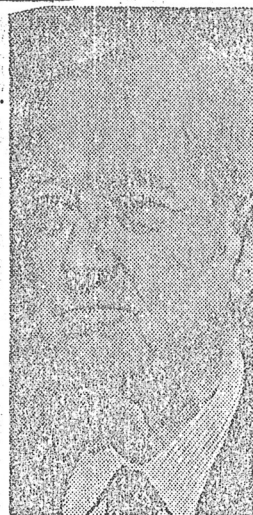
The new limitations on the C.I.A.'s foreign activities were approved late last year by the House and Senate as an amendment to the 1974 Foreign Assistance Act, which was signed into law by the President on Dec. 30.

The amendment provides that no appropriated funds "may be expended by or on behalf of the Central Intelligence Agency for operations in foreign countries, other than activities intended solely for obtaining necessary intelligence, unless and until the President finds that each such operation is impor-

tant to the national security of the United States."

Presidential Report Required

Upon making that determination, the bill says, the President must report as much in a written statement to the appropriate committees.



The New York Times
Senator John J. Sparkman

The legislation means that, pending specific Presidential approval, the C.I.A. would be unable to mount clandestine political operations against foreign governments or in other ways manipulate other countries. The amendment thus would have barred the widely publicized "destabilization" program between 1970 and 1973, whose target was the elected Government of the Marxist President of Chile, Salvador Allende Gossens.

In his letter, sent to William E. Colby, the Director of Central Intelligence, Senator Sparkman said that the "proper first step" for compliance would be to insure that the intelligence agency had obeyed the law and ceased all foreign operations other than intelligence gathering that had not specifically been approved by the President.

"We assume that if this is

into the case," the Sparkman letter said, "the committee will be notified forthwith and the requisite report submitted."

Mr. Sparkman further told

Mr. Colby that he should review the agency's current foreign intelligence activities to determine which "may conceivably be viewed as within the scope of the law." Any activities believed by the agency to fall within a "gray area," the Senator said, should be immediately brought to his attention.

In closing, the Senator endorsed the intelligence collection and analysis capability of the C.I.A. but added that it was "essential that public and Congressional confidence in the agency, now shaken by recent disclosures, be restored as promptly as possible."

The new amendment requires the C.I.A. to report on its overseas activities not involving intelligence gathering to the appropriate committees of the Congress, including the Committee on Foreign Relations of the United States Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the United States House of Representatives. The amendment thus gives the two committees their first jurisdiction over the agency's affairs.

Sources close to the Foreign Relations Committee said that Mr. Colby had not yet responded to the Sparkman letter.

One Senate official suggested that the Foreign Relations Committee under Mr. Sparkman might effectively monitor the C.I.A. because "he'll have more support from other members" than did former Senator J.W. Fulbright, Democrat of Arkansas, the former chairman.

"This amendment is important," the official said, "because it gives the committee the kind of charter it hasn't had before."

The next step, he added, "is up to Colby."

Congressional debate over President Ford's eight-member commission to investigate alleged domestic spying, named yesterday, focused on personalities.

Proxmire Widens Criticism
Senator Proxmire, who criti-

cized yesterday the naming of Mr. Rockefeller as chairman, broadened his criticism today. "The panel is one-sided in that it contains no champion of civil liberties," he said. "And what is at issue here is the C.I.A. tampering with the civil liberties of American citizens."

"I think that panel is unlikely to give the vigorous, adversary, critical analysis of C.I.A. activities that we are supposed to get," he said.

Another Liberal Democrat, Representative Robert L. Leggett of California, contended that "we can expect nothing but a whitewash from this panel."

In New York, Representative Abzug accused President Ford of "continuing 'the cover-up tradition' of his predecessor, Richard M. Nixon, by naming, with few exceptions, this conservative collection of bankers, corporate officials and a former chief of staff [who] have never shown any concern for civil liberties."

Senator Schweiker, a liberal Republican, questioned "whether a panel so dominated by those oriented to government and the military intelligence establishment can render an independent judgment."

In a jointly released protest, the A.C.L.U., the Committee for Public Justice and the Center for National Security Studies charged that the "new commission seems designed more to avoid a full public review than to facilitate one."

"No one on the President's commission has heretofore been known as an independent critic of any C.I.A. activities," they said.

Protest Rockefeller Role

The three civil liberties groups also protested the choice of Mr. Rockefeller as commission chairman because of his role as a member since 1969 of the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board. The board regularly reviews intelligence operations and sets some re-

quirements for the intelligence community.

Asked about those complaints this morning upon his return to Washington, the Vice President defended his selection, saying, "Probably I have as good an understanding of the function of intelligence overseas as anybody, in terms of a citizen, and therefore I can be effective in asking the questions to uncover the answers to those questions which have been raised."

Mr. Rockefeller noted that he had not volunteered for the job and said he was planning to complete his work within the three-month deadline set by President Ford.

The Vice President also defended the make-up of the commission, describing it as "outstanding." He said that its work would have three main goals: To restore confidence in the C.I.A.; to protect national security, and to protect individual freedom and human dignity.

Staff Director Opening

An official close to Mr. Rockefeller said that there were "two or three" candidates for the important job of staff director for the group, officially known as the Commission on C.I.A. Activities Within the United States. The official said

that the post would "almost certainly" be filled before the end of the week.

The other commission members are Ronald Reagan, former Governor of California; Erwin N. Griswold, former Solicitor General; C. Douglas Dillon, former Secretary of the Treasury; John T. Connor, former Secretary of Commerce; Gen. Lyman L. Lemnitzer, former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; Edgar F. Shannon Jr., former president of the University of Virginia, and Joseph Lane Kirkland, secretary-treasurer of the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations.

In a television interview broadcast tonight, Mr. Kirkland denied reports that the labor union had received funds from the C.I.A. to aid in supporting anti-Communist unions in Latin America and elsewhere.

He was interviewed by Paul Duke on "Washington Straight Talk," produced by the Public Broadcasting Service.

The Ford Administration, despite authorizing the commission, has yet to deny or confirm officially the allegations of domestic spying, which were first published Dec. 22 in The New York Times.